

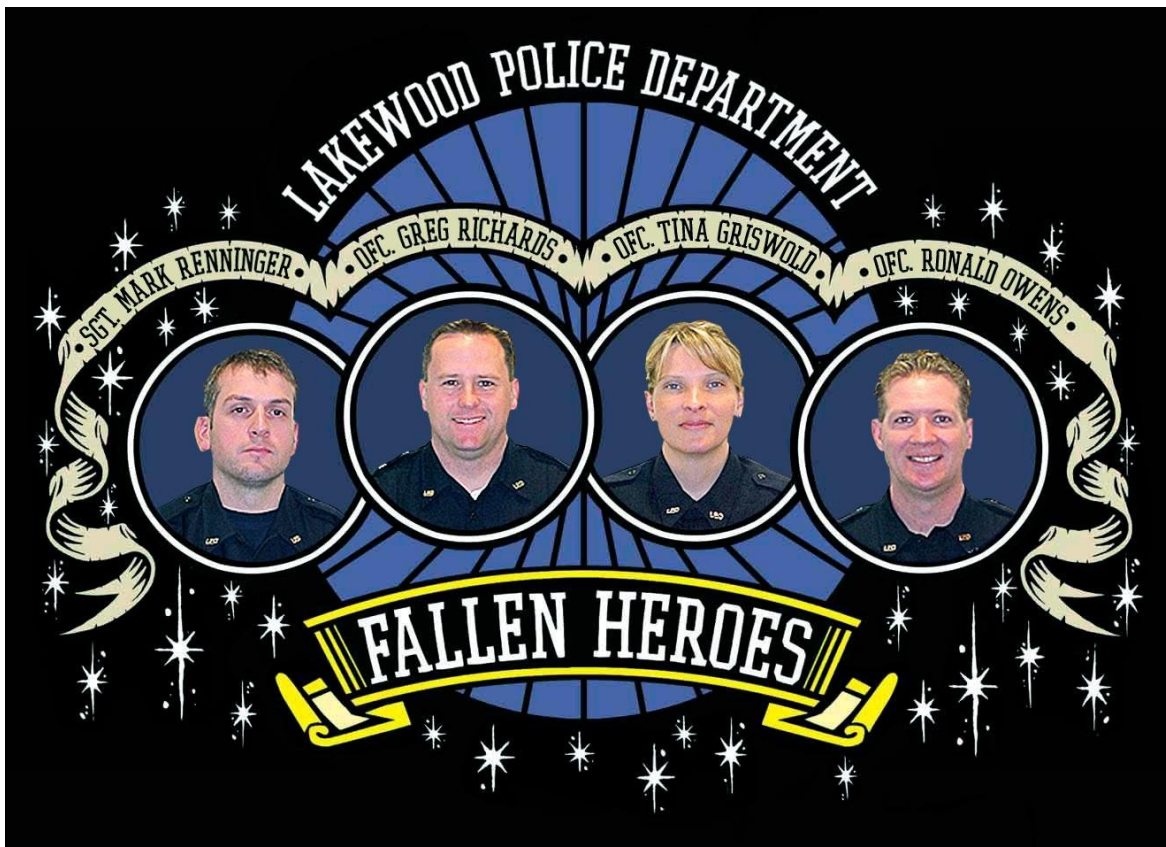


December 7, 2009

Dear Kitchen Cabinet members,

I was in Olympia several days last week for Committee Assembly, where legislators gather for three days in December, hold committee meetings and receive reports from state agencies, subcommittees and task forces that were initiated during the previous legislative session. In addition, there are two upcoming events I'd like to share with you.

Lakewood Officer Memorial



Tomorrow's service at the Tacoma Dome

Since the murders of four Lakewood police officers just after Thanksgiving, there has been an enormous outpouring of support from the community, so much so that the memorial service for the officers will be held at the Tacoma Dome tomorrow at 1 p.m. The dome seats about 23,000 people, but many more than that are expected to attend. There will be alternate venues which will accommodate the overflow and hold simultaneous memorial services. Pacific Lutheran University's Olson Auditorium is a remote site with video of the ceremony. The Christian Faith Center in Federal Way is another remote site with video, and the William Philips Hall on the University of Washington – Tacoma campus is a third remote site. Doors for all three will open at 9 a.m.

I've been asked to travel in the procession of vehicles which will proceed from McChord Field, through Lakewood and finally Tacoma. **My wife and I will be riding in a State Patrol vehicle in the procession and will symbolically represent the people of the 28th Legislative District**, some of whom were protected by Lakewood Police Officers Mark Renninger, Ronald Owens, Tina Griswold and Greg Richards.

Preventing another tragedy like this

In the wake of a horrific loss such as this, there is always a search to understand how and why it happened. As more details about the accused shooter, Maurice Clemmons, are released, more questions arise as to why he wasn't behind bars where he couldn't do any harm.

I've learned that Clemmons was sent a letter by the Pierce County prosecutor's office informing him that it was going to try him as a persistent offender and put him behind bars for life. After learning of that, Clemmons could have felt that he had nothing left to lose when he decided to murder our four brave officers. **That's why I'm proposing a constitutional**

amendment which would change Article 1, Section 20 of the state constitution to disallow bail for anyone charged with a crime which could result in a life sentence.

I've also discovered that some bail bond companies may not be charging the traditional 10% of the bail set by the courts. Clemmons' bail for his most recent violation was set at \$150,000. 10% of that is \$15,000, which is what the bail bond company should have charged Clemmons (although whether that was the actual amount or not isn't clear). If a bail bond company wanted to undercut their competition and only charge a few thousand, a suspect could be let out without meeting the traditional 10%. **I'll be sponsoring a bill which would require bail bond companies to collect the full 10% before making bail and certify to the court that they did indeed receive the full amount or face a criminal penalty. I wouldn't want someone like Clemmons let out at all, but if someone is able to get out on bail they should be charged the full 10%.**

A third piece of legislation I'll be proposing would prevent anyone convicted of a crime which qualifies as their second strike from being eligible for early release. Such individuals would be required to serve the full length of the sentence. Sex offenders who are convicted of a second strike are already given a life sentence without the possibility of parole, so this bill would only apply to three-strike category crimes.

Finally, I'll have a bill which would require any hospital which treats a patient whose injuries are believed to be the result of a criminal act to notify police. I've been told that last year, a local hospital did not notify Lakewood police when they transferred a patient with a gunshot wound to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. Someone at Harborview notified Lakewood police due to the suspicious nature of the patient's injuries. Some would argue federal HIPAA laws prevent hospital staff from sharing patient information with the police due to privacy concerns. Current law requires this information to be shared upon request by a law enforcement agency and only if a hospital administrator agrees. However, if the police don't even know a criminal has gone to the hospital, they wouldn't know to request the information. My bill would avoid conflicting with the federal law by allowing hospitals to withhold a suspect's name but still notify police if a patient is suspected of committing a crime.

A moment of silence

During Committee Assembly last week, the Senate held an impromptu moment of silence in the Senate chambers on Thursday. Many legislators stood at their desks with heads turned down while the Lieutenant Governor read the names of the four Lakewood officers and the Seattle police officer murdered just over a month ago. It was a small and in my opinion, inadequate tribute, but necessary because all the members were in town. **I don't feel it was sufficient to honor the lives and families of our fallen heroes, so there will likely be another date during the legislative session next year where the Senate will be honoring these four officers and law enforcement personnel in general.** I've drafted a resolution I hope will be adopted by the Senate which pays tribute to our four fallen heroes and their families. I'll keep you posted on the specific details of the event as it draws closer.

What you can do

Many people have been deeply affected by this terrible tragedy and are asking what they can do. **I hope you can attend one of tomorrow's services, and if you'd like to donate to**



a fund which will help support the fallen officers' families, you can contact the [Lakewood Police Independent Guild](#) here.

Telephone town hall on Thursday

Amid all the other news of the past week, you may not have heard that I'll be holding another telephone town hall on Thursday. I'd like to invite you to participate! The event will take place this **Thursday, December 10th, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Everyone in the 28th District will either be receiving an automatic phone call from me or a postcard with instructions on how to call in. If for some reason you don't receive the call or a postcard, **you can participate by calling 1-877-229-8493 and entering the access code of 15388.**

The technology allows all of your 28th District friends and neighbors to get involved in state government by participating in the live event. I want to hear from you directly about what is concerning you or your family. The town hall's interactive telephone system allows you to have complete control over how you choose to participate and how long you want to stay connected. **I'm looking forward to hearing your comments, questions and concerns, so I hope everyone who doesn't receive the random call will call the 877 number and participate!**

In closing...

If you know someone in our district who might be interested in receiving these updates, please feel free to forward this e-mail to him or her.

Please note that in my next Kitchen Cabinet update, I'll go into more detail about the numerous bills I'll be proposing for the 2010 legislative session. And as always, if you'd like to contact me you can write, phone, e-mail, or stop by my Olympia office. I look forward to your comments and suggestions because they help me better represent you. My office phone number is (360) 786-7654, and my home phone number is (253) 581-2859. Or you can write me at **102 Irv Newhouse Building, P.O. Box 40428, Olympia, WA 98504-0428.**



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Sincerely,

Mike Carrell

28th District State Senator